

Whereas, Mr. Jaime Benítez Rexach was an outstanding educator, patriot, and public servant, whose contributions continue to shape the fabric of American society; and

Whereas, celebrating Mr. Jaime Benítez Rexach's legacy contributes to the strength and culture of our Nation; now, therefore, I, Congresswoman JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, do hereby attest to the 115th Congress that Mr. Jaime Benítez Rexach is deserving of national and congressional recognition.

Proclaimed, this 23rd day of October, 2018.

HONORING JESSE LOREN WITH
CALIFORNIA'S THIRD DISTRICT
WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2018

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jesse Loren as a woman of the year. She is an enthusiastic, valued, and beloved member of the Winters community who exemplifies the qualities of a true public servant. Ms. Loren began her teaching career as an English and Journalism teacher in the Esparto and Travis School Districts where she served in leadership roles on the School Site Council at Vanden High School. In recognition of her exceptional skills as an educator, Ms. Loren was honored with Vanden High School's 2009 Teacher of the Year award. Ms. Loren is a member of a wide range of organizations and foundations including the Winters Hispanic Advisory Committee, the League of California Cities, the Water Resources Association, the Yolo Solano Sustainable Groundwater Agency, and Yolo Leaders. Furthermore, in 2016 she was elected to the Winters City Council where she dove into the issues of concern to Winters residents, swiftly learning the nuts and bolts of how the city functioned. Always deft at building community, Ms. Loren's efforts on the City Council have strengthened the cohesion and collegiality of the Winters community. As a strong advocate for effective water management and quality public education, Ms. Loren consistently demonstrates a keen interest in understanding every aspect of an issue. Her generosity with her time and energy is truly remarkable, enabling her to serve her constituents and community members with unusual insight and empathy. Ms. Loren is a skilled public servant whose devotion to the community she serves is worthy of recognition.

HONORING CY NICOLAS BOWMAN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2018

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Cy Nicolas Bowman. Cy is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 47, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Cy has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Cy has been involved with scout-

ing, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Cy has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Cy built and established a Little Free Library in St. Joseph, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Cy Nicolas Bowman for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

MARINE CORPS SERGEANT ERIC
MORANTE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, 1 in 10 Americans join the military and I am proud to say that the state of Texas consistently meets their quarterly quotas. Texans are raised with a sense of patriotism and civic duty, which is reflected by the number of enlisted members in the military. As of September 2017, Texas had 164,234 members on active duty or reserves, placing Texas as the 2nd state with the largest population serving in the armed forces.

From an early age Texans are taught southern hospitality, religion, and love for their country. This is especially true for Marine Corps Sergeant Eric Morante, who recalls wanting to be a US Marine since he was 8 years old. In 2003, weeks after graduating from high school, Eric stepped foot in San Diego, California to complete the Marine Corp boot camp. As an 0311-Infantryman, he was given orders to the 2nd battalion, 7th Marines in Twenty-nine Palms, California. Weeks after reporting for duty, his unit deployed to Iraq. Eric would be assigned to a fire-team that cleared houses in Fallujah. On his first deployment, Eric was conducting raids, patrolling and identifying high value targets, all at the age of 18. Eric completed his first 7-month tour and returned safely to American soil for 6 months before being re-deployed to Iraq on July 4, 2005.

Eric's second deployment was a little different than the first. Days before their scheduled return, the 2nd battalion, 7th Marines, lost 10 men and had 11 injuries from a single explosion caused by a pressure plate IED on the west side of Fallujah. After two "desert" deployments and the loss of several comrades, Eric Morante honorably completed his first enlistment. But this proud Texan was not done serving his country or his beloved US Marine Corps. In 2006, he raised his right hand, and for a second time, he swore to defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic. As he prepared for his new drill-instructor role, he learned that the 2/7 was being re-deployed for another tour. Eric deferred his new orders as a drill-instructor to accompany the men that had become his family, to the Middle-East. The loss of his friends weighed heavy on his heart and he was not prepared to lose more.

On April 20th of 2007, four months into this third Iraq deployment, Eric stood watch with 6 Marines and a Navy Corps man, over bridge 286 that overlooks 6 lanes over a major highway that runs through Iraq. On that day, their

lives were forever changed. A dump truck carrying 3,000 lbs. of explosives detonated just 15 feet away from the bridge. Waking up covered in large remnants of concrete, Eric recalls sitting up and spitting up blood. His left arm twisted and dislocated and his right leg in an un-natural L-shape.

Despite the complete state of shock, the constant ringing in the ears, and the faint voices, Eric managed to account for his men. Miraculously, no men were killed in the explosion, and the 6 of the 8 men that were seriously injured were medevacked.

Unable to save Eric's severely injured right leg, the doctors of Bethesda Naval Hospital amputated above the knee. Pins were used to repair his left hand, surgery to reconstruct his face was conducted and once again, Eric would have to learn how to walk. Recuperating at the Brooks Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, he found himself going through a period of depression and began to isolate himself from his loved ones. At one point, was taking 16 prescribed medications to help cope with his PTSD.

In 2009, Eric welcomed his first and only son, which gave him purpose and a new perspective in life. His new role as a father allowed him to once again be the Eric he once was; a leader with grit, respect, and desire to help others. Since the explosion, Eric has completed triathlons, 5Ks, and sprints. He also became the first Marine amputee to be sanctioned for boxing in the United States and remained undefeated for 5 full years. He boxes at fundraising matches that benefit veteran organizations, and has created a name for himself in the veteran community. He continuously advocates and helps others that struggle with PTSD and visits military hospitals in an effort to guide amputees through the prosthetics process.

Mr. Speaker, President Ronald Reagan once said "some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference. But the Marines don't have that problem". The great state of Texas commends Eric for his service, courage and resiliency. Semper Fi Marine.

And that's just the way it is.

IN HONOR OF MR. GUY BEATTY

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2018

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the achievements and life of Mr. Guy Beatty from McLean, Virginia, a leading philanthropist, entrepreneur, and cherished member of our community.

Mr. Beatty was an astute businessman who became tremendously successful in his business ventures while maintaining humility and his faith. After he began working in real estate in 1962, with \$2000 in his pocket, he achieved vast amounts of success and was able to grow his business as he established partnerships with those who could help him realize his goals.

Mr. Beatty was not only known as a businessman, but a benevolent man who devoted a great deal of his life to philanthropy. He was passionate about helping others and was

known to have a few favorite sayings which embody his altruistic nature:

Take some, leave some
This is God's money, not mine . . . I've been put in the position to help others and give them an opportunity they may not have otherwise had.

Mr. Beatty always believed that his success was made possible to allow him to serve God. To this point, his philanthropic endeavors have impacted thousands of people directly and countless more indirectly. Schools, churches, hospitals, clinics, students, research programs, and universities have all been improved because of Mr. Beatty's vision, leadership, and generosity. Notably, Mr. Beatty helped create, fund, and served as the Chairman of the Spinal Research Foundation, a national non-profit organization based in Reston, Virginia, to achieve his desire to end spinal suffering. Neck and back pain are the leading cause of disability in the United States, and Guy Beatty didn't want others to suffer as he had throughout his life. He supported the Foundation to champion research and education focused on eliminating needless suffering and thus enable people to regain their lives. He was a true Spinal Champion and his contributions to spinal research and innovation continues to give people hope that proper treatment works.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the many achievements and life of Mr. Guy Beatty who has given hope and impacted the lives of so many in our community and around the nation.

CELEBRATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WOMEN IN SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2018

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the establishment of the Women in Science Scholarship at Truett McConnell University.

The Office of Advancement and the Pilgram Marpeck School of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics have raised close to \$3,000 to fund the scholarship for females majoring in biology or exercise science. This scholarship has already helped students attend the Integrative Physiology of Exercise Conference through the American College of Sports Medicine in San Diego, California.

Because of their efforts in departmental fund raising and garnering private donations, the women selected for this scholarship will be able to present scientific research, enrich their presentation skills, and enhance their professional network for future careers.

I celebrate this new opportunity for women in Northeast Georgia and wish the recipients success along their academic journey.

HONORING VAUGHN GRIFFITH

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2018

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Vaughn Griffith.

Vaughn is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1264, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Vaughn has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Vaughn has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Vaughn has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Vaughn Griffith for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

COMMEMORATING KENTUCKY HIGHLANDS INVESTMENT CORPORATION'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2018

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation and to celebrate the thousands of jobs that have been created and retained in Southern and Eastern Kentucky as a direct result of their work.

Kentucky Highlands is recognized as one of the premier business development organizations in the United States. It has been designated the Lead Entity of one of three Rural Empowerment Zones, one of eight Rural Tax Credit Community Development Corporations, a partner Community Development Corporation of Rural Local Initiative Support Corporation, a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) and a Community Development Entity by the U.S. Department of Treasury and has received allocations of New Markets Tax Credits.

Kentucky Highlands became the nation's first nonbank lender under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Business and Industry Loan Guaranty program and the first Small Business Administration guaranteed lender under the Community Advantage Program. Kentucky Highlands sponsors entrepreneur development programs and has developed the Kentucky Highlands Business Innovation and Growth Center.

When you survey Southern and Eastern Kentucky, the footprint of Kentucky Highlands is abundantly clear. Countless businesses have been established in our rural, mountainous region that otherwise would not be here without the direct investments and support of Kentucky Highlands. This organization has coordinated, implemented and promoted business growth across its 22-county service area.

The first venture capital investment that Kentucky Highlands made was in 1972 for Outdoor Venture Corporation (OVC) in McCreary County. Today, OVC is a thriving manufacturing company in Stearns, Kentucky that has won repeated successful bids for military contract work, employing over 200 people in our region. Our people take great pride in producing products for our U.S. warfighters,

and we can celebrate their ongoing work as a result of the visionary seed funding that Kentucky Highlands made 46 years ago.

In addition to its pioneering efforts in business development, Kentucky Highlands has also utilized its success to impact social development and improve the quality of low-income housing in Southern and Eastern Kentucky. The Highlands Housing Corporation has helped over 150 families achieve the dream of homeownership, while other programs have been implemented to transform energy-efficient housing options where it's needed the most.

Finally, I want to applaud the visionary leadership of Jerry Rickett, who was named President and CEO of Kentucky Highlands in 1989. He is a native of Southern Kentucky who was determined to make a dynamic change in his home region through economic development and improvements in housing. Rather than seeing challenges, he sees opportunities, and it's that same drive and determination that has guided this flagship organization to great success, benefitting families and businesses across our region.

I'm incredibly grateful for the commitment that Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation has made in Southern and Eastern Kentucky, and it is with great enthusiasm that I wish them many more years of success on their 50th Anniversary.

HONORING JACK LAGUE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2018

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jack LaGue. Jack is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1264, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jack has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jack has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jack has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jack LaGue for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE, LEGACY, AND SERVICE OF MR. FIRMAN BALZA

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2018

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of the life, legacy, and service of Green Bay native, Mr. Firman Balza.

Mr. Firman Balza was one of America's last surviving servicemen from the infamous attack on Pearl Harbor. Answering the call from his